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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,960	08/26/2003	Henry Frank Gasbarro	NG(MS)-6621	5237
7590		10/31/2005	EXAMINER	
Christopher P. Harris		DUONG, HUNG V		
1111 Leader Building		ART UNIT		
526 Superior Avenue		PAPER NUMBER		
Cleveland, OH 44114		2835		

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/647,960

Applicant(s)

GASBARRO ET AL.

Examiner

Hung v Duong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-7,9,11-21,23-32 and 35-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 1,5-7,9,11-21,23,24,31,32 and 35-37, 42-43 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 25-28,38 and 39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29,30,40 and 41 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

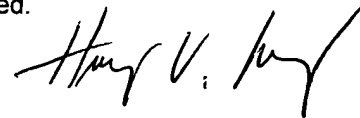
Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

HUNG VAN DUONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. The indicated allowability of previous claims 25-30, and 38-41 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Tong et al (US Pat. 6,141,211). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 25-28, 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tong et al (US Pat. 6,141,221).

Regarding claims 25-28, Tong et al disclose a system comprising: a docking station 100 including a plurality of I/O ports 207, 209, each I/O port being terminated with an I/O port connector 221, 223, 225, 235; a module stack supported in the docking station 100, the module stack comprising a plurality of modules 101, 102, 103 having I/O connections terminated with module I/O connectors 193, the module I/O connectors 193 being connectable with a selected one of the I/O port connectors 221, 223, 225, 235 to configure the module I/O connections 193 to communicate through the selected I/O port. The I/O ports 207, 209 each including a plurality of conductors 297 for

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transmitting I/O signals, each of the conductors 297 being wired to its associated I/O port connector 221, 223, 225, 235, the module I/O connections being selectively wired to the module I/O connectors to configure a desired communication path with an external device connected with the I/O port wherein the modules 101, 102, 103 in the module stack are interconnected to form a communication bus for providing communications between the modules 101, 102, 103 wherein the communication bus of the module stack is formed through interconnection of bus connectors of adjacent modules 101, 102, 103, the module stack being expandable through stacking additional boards onto the stack, the communication bus being expandable by interconnecting the bus connectors of the added modules to the bus connectors of adjacent modules in the module stack (see column 4, lines 25-35).

Regarding method claims 38-39, the system structure as mentioned above can perform the method claims 38-39

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 29-30, 40-41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to show that a cable having a first end connectable with the first port and a second end connectable with the second port, the cable providing an interconnection between the power output connection of the docking station and the power input connection of the computer, the cable providing interconnection between

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the at least one I/O connection of the computer and the at least one of the module I/O connections.

4. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 11-21, 23-24, 31-32, and 35-43 are allowed
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: as mentioned above.

Conclusion

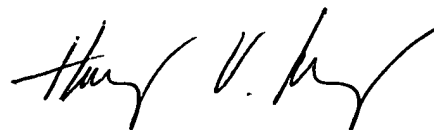
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung v Duong whose telephone number is 571-272-2041. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30 to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Field can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HVD

10/25/05.



Hung Duong
Primary Examiner.